



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**APRIL 27, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE

### **THREE FELONS SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three felons were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

\* **Jeffrey L. Medina**, 36, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to one year and eight months in federal prison without parole.

On May 9, 2003, **Medina** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Medina** admitted that he was in possession of an Armi Tanfoglio .32 caliber pistol on Oct. 6, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Medina** has a 1986 criminal felony conviction for burglary in Colorado.

**Medina** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 5, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by First Assistant U.S. Attorney Roseann A. Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Joseph B. Lewis**, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 11, 2003, **Lewis** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Lewis** admitted that he was in possession of an Ithaca 20-gauge sawed-off pistol-

grip shotgun on Sept. 26, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Lewis** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for fleeing and eluding.

**Lewis** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 4, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Andy A. Barnes**, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 13, 2004, **Barnes** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Barnes** admitted that he was in possession of a Sauer J.P. and Sohn 7.65 caliber semi-automatic pistol on May 14, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Barnes** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for assault, a 1998 criminal felony conviction for stealing, and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

**Barnes** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 4, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

### **Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 590 defendants, and convictions against 504 of those defendants, including 476 who pleaded guilty and 28 who were convicted at trial. A total of 450 of the convicted defendants have been sentenced and another 54 convicted defendants are awaiting sentencing hearings.

\*\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)